

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /202 W

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P R 141928Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8004

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02061

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, BMEP, UK

SUBJECT: UK FEARS OF US COAL EXPORT EMBARGO

REF: LONDON 1881

1. REFTEL REPORTED DEEP CONCERN OF SENIOR OFFICIAL  
IN UK DEPT OF ENERGY (DE) RE POSSIBLE US COAL EMBARGO  
AND NOTED QUESTION HAS SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR LONG  
TERM ENERGY SOURCE PLANS OF UK AND EUROPE. LATER THE  
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CENTRAL ELECTRICITY GENERATING BOARD (CEGB) FUEL  
OFFICER FOR COAL, MR. J. LAING, EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT

EVEN CONTRACTS FOR COAL DELIVERIES SIGNED IN 1973 MIGHT BE STOPPED. HE EMPHASIZED THE LONG TERM DAMAGE TO AMERICA'S TRADE IMAGE SUCH ACTION WOULD CAUSE. HE ADDED THAT THE CEGB IS EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN FUTURE COAL CONTRACTS WITH THE UNITED STATES. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES CEGB WOULD NEED NOT ONLY ASSURANCES THAT THE US WILL NOT BLOCK DELIVERIES OF COAL ALREADY CONTRACTED FOR BUT ALSO THAT FUTURE PLANS CAN BE MADE BASED ON FREE MARKET AVAILABILITY.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR US COAL EXPORTS TO THE UK AND POSSIBLY TO OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES ARE SIGNIFICANT (DE OFFICIAL CITED REFTEL ESTIMATED UK MIGHT SEEK TO PURCHASE AS MUCH AS 10 MILLION TONS FROM THE US IN 1974.) THESE POSSIBILITIES COULD BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY ANY PRECIPITOUS EMBARGO ACTION OF USG. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE ANSWER INQUIRIES FROM BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND ENERGY USERS THAT DELIVERY OBLIGATIONS WILL BE MET AND THAT FUTURE RESTRAINTS WILL BE ONLY THOSE SET BY FREE MARKET.

3. UK OFFICIALS HAVE STRESSED THAT DISCUSSIONS CONCERN COAL CONTRACTED FOR BEFORE STRIKE. FUTURE CONTRACTS WILL BE PRIMARILY TO REPLENISH STOCKS AFTER STRIKE ENDS AND FOR LONG TERM FUTURE USE AS COAL INCREASINGLY REPLACES OIL.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST GUIDANCE RE USG POSITION ON COAL EMBARGO ISSUE.

ANNENBERG

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COAL, NEGOTIATIONS, EMBARGOES, EXPORT LICENSES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** UK FEARS OF US COAL EXPORT EMBARGO  
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